



The Mini Crosser T-Joystick:

Electric mobile wheelchair

It doesn't always have to be an electric wheelchair in order to be supremely in the forefront. Modern Electric Mobiles, also called Scooters, can be an alternative not only in pedestrian areas, but also out in the open countryside. And especially if they – like the new Mini Crosser 125 TJ 4W – are equipped with joystick-steering. We had the opportunity to take a closer look and to test-drive the snappy T-Joystick.



Test-drive: Henning Spengemann in the T-Joystick

Normally scooters, which are already much more widespread in the US and Scandinavia than here with us, have a handlebar similar to that of a bicycle or moped. The new Mini Crosser with the choice of left or right hand joystick-steering from the Dynamic House is, therefore, a true innovation. Because now people, who owing to their limited motor activity were unable to manage the handlebar steering or who until now assumed that electric mobile scooters were only for old people, will also be able to enjoy the typical Scooter-Feeling. „The Joystick version is, especially for younger and more active people, an extremely suitable and efficient outdoor vehicle”, says Gerwin Tydecks whose Oldenburger company has been selling the Mini Crosser products for almost 20 years. With no handlebar or front structure, the four wheeler T-Joystick with its powerful and curvy forms looks like a motorized Bobbycar for adults. It has indeed distanced itself from the appearance of a typical handicap and senior vehicle. “This is also psychologically important for the users”, says Tydeck's younger colleague, Henning Spengemann.



We set out with him for a test-drive in the Oldenburger marshlands. At first we drive the 1.37 meter long vehicle on firm

surfaces along country roads at a speed of up to 10 km/h. Even at higher speeds the electric engine purrs extremely quietly, and because of the long wheelbase the Mini Crosser holds the road smoothly. Even when speed changes and braking manoeuvres are provoked by abrupt handling and releasing of the joystick it counters with a jerk-free smooth road performance. Then all you want to do is carry on cruising, which with the 56 ampere-hour (Ah) strong standard batteries would lead you on about 35 kilometres. With the optional 73-Ah-accumulators you could even manage to go 55 kilometres and easily make it to the North Sea coast. No wonder that a GPS-navigation device is also offered as an accessory for the T-Joystick.

Well, now we turn into a freshly laid field track to make a first attempt at testing the T-Joystick's suitability for driving in difficult terrain. On the treacherous mixture of gravel and sand it cuts a good figure due to the excellent suspension and chassis balance. The front axle has swing



Challenge: The Mini Crosser cuts a good figure in difficult terrain

suspension, the back wheels are suspended by individually adjustable rubber blocks. Shock loads are effectively diverted and kept away from the driver. On the sloping embankment another advantage becomes apparent: The Mini Crosser 125 TJ 4W has a remarkable gradient stability. However, when turning on the narrow track it becomes clear that it cannot quite compete with electric wheelchairs on this point. But it doesn't have to, because it is not intended for indoor use.

A feeling of freedom and safety

Out in the fresh air the approx. 150 kilogram heavy electric mobile wheelchair gives the driver a feeling of freedom and safety. This is conveyed, for example, by the increased frame protection as compared with electric wheelchairs, as the construction ensures that the legs cannot knock into anything in front. The Ergo-Lux-Seat in our model offers safe side hold, is comfortable, rotates

Information

The Mini Crosser company from the Danish town of Herning has been producing first-class high-quality electric wheelchairs and electric mobile scooters since 1981. The emphasis is traditionally on safety and durability: all products are subjected to constant testing by the Swedish Handicap Institute and the German TÜV (organization for safety standards certification). The company has even carried out crash tests and has received approval for transportation of the scooter and user in a mini-bus, as long as a 4-point belt system is used for this purpose. In Germany the Mini Crosser products are available at six regional specialist dealers.

Information: Mini Crosser A/S, Tel.: 0045/70102054
Fax: 0045/97168582 • E-mail: info@minicrosser.com
Internet: www.minicrosser.com



Sensitive:
The Joystick-steering



Comfortable:
The Ergo-Lux-Seat

mechanically and is also available on request with electric adjustment options. The Mini Crosser gives you freedom not only on, but also under the vehicle: With a clear distance to the ground of 13 centimetres the T-Joystick easily masters even high kerbs.

We take the liberty, feeling somewhat rash, to drive into a meadow still wet from spring - a real test of stability. Through muddy furrows and over plateau-like grass turfs the 125 TJ 4W moves on its way thanks to the strong torque of the motor. And even if the gear-driven back wheels go into a spin now and again they soon get back into gear by means of clever shunting. Here you see how sensitively and intuitively the joystick can be operated, how precisely the handlebar is steered electronically by means of a special adjusting motor between the front wheels. We really do not need to fear that the roll bar attached to this scooter – also an optically handsome accessory – will ever come to be used. Incidentally, we were not able to test the climbing ability of the T-Joystick in the flat Oldenburger countryside. The manufacturer gives it an alpine declaration of 30 per cent.

Text and Photos: Gunther Belitz